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ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-0307

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May 17, 2022

Office of the Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590
Attn: Secretary Pete Buttigieg

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

We write to express support for the City of Phoenix's RAISE grant application for the Rio Reimagined 3rd Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge. This project will create a safe, attractive, and needed dedicated bicycle and pedestrian connection across the Rio Salado and Interstate 17, which pose significant barriers for mobility between Central City and South Phoenix.

The Rio Reimagined 3rd Street Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge is the next phase of the regional Rio Reimagined vision, which has been developed over years with community input. This project will enhance bicycle and pedestrian improvements and create a contiguous active transportation corridor on 3rd Street as well as provide modernized, enhanced, and environmentally sensitive trail improvements along the southern bank of the Rio Salado. These improvements will provide safer facilities for recreation and commuting benefits for bicyclists and pedestrians across Phoenix, seamlessly connecting to trails systems in neighboring jurisdictions in the City of Tempe and City of Mesa.

This project will deliver dedicated bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure to improve safety, increase mobility, and encourage economic development in a historically disadvantaged area that has among the highest pedestrian fatality rates in the country.¹ It is also a climate- and environment-conscious project that will promote no- and low-emission transportation and improvements along the Rio Salado banks related to the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area.

We thank you for your full and fair consideration of the City of Phoenix's request within all applicable rules and guidelines.

Sincerely,



Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/phoenix/2019/07/10/study-arizona-7th-congressional-district-named-most-dangerous-place-walk-pedestrians/1690161001/>.